BOOM! STUDIOS™

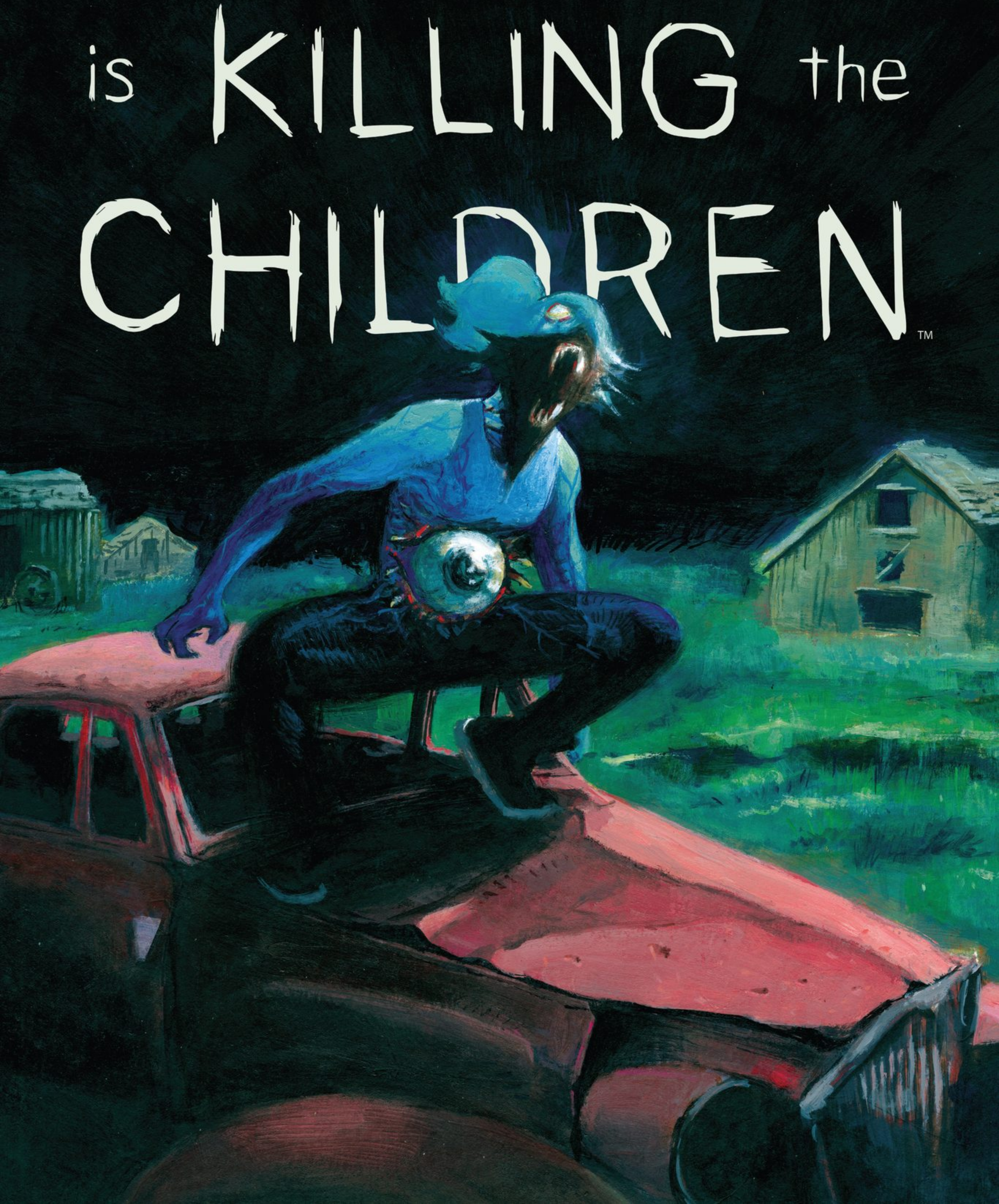
JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 31

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™



THE LADY GRABBED JIMMY BY THE NECK AND LIFTED HIM LIKE HE WEIGHED NOTHING. AND THAT WAS ALMOST SCARIER THAN THE ***NOISES*** SHE WAS MAKING.

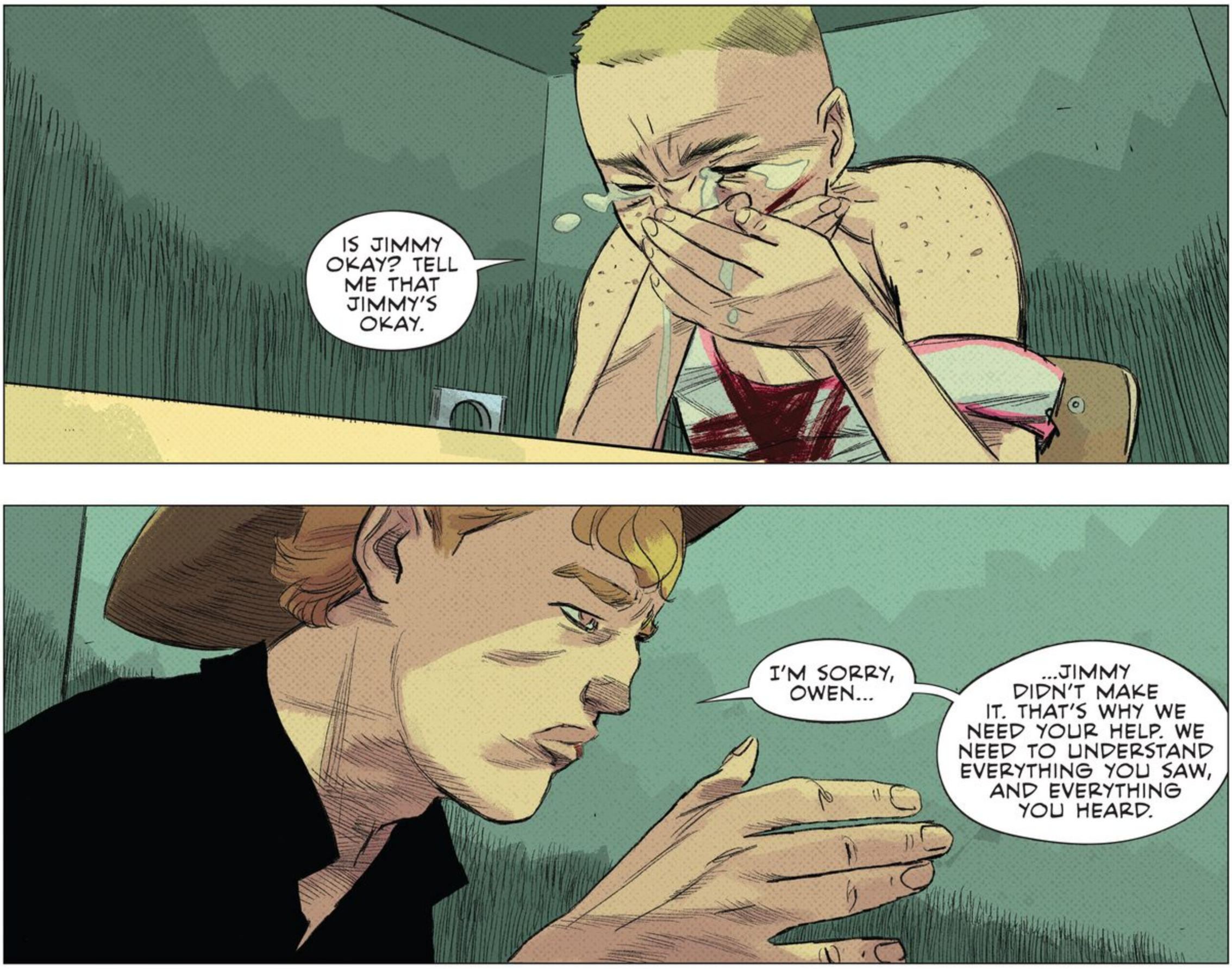
AND...AND I TRIED TO KICK HER. I SWEAR I DID, BUT SHE KNOCKED ME SO HARD AGAINST THE WALL I COULDN'T SEE STRAIGHT.

BY THE TIME I GOT BACK ON MY FEET, IT WAS BITING JIMMY'S NECK AND HIS BLOOD WAS JUST... SQUIRTING EVERYWHERE, BUT HE COULD STILL TALK. HE WAS CALLING FOR ME.

AND WHAT DID YOU DO THEN?

I JUST... I JUST RAN. I WAS SO SCARED.

IT DIDN'T SEEM REAL. THE ***LADY*** DIDN'T SEEM REAL.


IS JIMMY OKAY? TELL ME THAT JIMMY'S OKAY.
I'M SORRY, OWEN...
...JIMMY DIDN'T MAKE IT. THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING YOU SAW, AND EVERYTHING YOU HEARD.
ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS JIMMY *SCREAMING.*

THEY WORKED UP A SKETCH OF THE KILLER BASED ON THE BOY'S DESCRIPTION. HE KEPT TALKING ABOUT HER ***BIG EYES.***

WELL, THAT LOOKS FUCKING FAMILIAR, DOESN'T IT? BUT WHAT IS SHE WEARING?

POLICE

BANDANA. IT'S A BANDANA. IT'S...IT'S WHAT SHE DOES...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

SHE TRANSFORMS INTO A *MONSTER.* IT'S...IT'S HOW WE STAY STRONG.

"WE"?

SHUT UP. JUST SHUT UP. ***SHE*** STAYS STRONG. WEARS THE BANDANA TO STAY STRONG. THAT AND HER FUCKING OCTOPUS.

DO YOU NEED TO LAY DOWN?

I NEED YOU TO PUT OUT AN A.P.B. FOR ERICA SLAUGHTER. I WANT HER FACE ALL OVER THE FUCKING NEWS.

I WANT EVERY LITTLE PIGGY IN UNIFORM FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES HUNTING HER WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

I... I...

I...I NEED TO USE THE LADIES.

EXCUSE ME.

THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH HER?

HAVE YOU...HAVE YOU CALLED HER OFFICE? HAVE WE CHECKED WHO SHE IS?

LOOK, THAT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW. WE NEED TO GET PEOPLE LOOKING FOR ERICA. AND RIQUI, TOO, NOW THAT SHE'S IN THE MIX.

I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS.

DO YOU MIND IF I MAKE A FEW CALLS, THOUGH?

THAT CUTTER WOMAN. SHE DOES ***NOT*** SEEM WELL.

THAT'S FINE, BILL. THAT'S TOTALLY FINE.

DOLLY DOLLY DOLLY WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO YOU...

SHRIII

BREATHE, CUTTER, BREATHE. SHE'S STRONG. SHE'S STRONGER THAN YOU. SHE'S A GOOD DOLLY. SHE'S A GOOD GOOD DOLLY.

WHAT WOULD SHE SAY NOW?

DOESN'T MATTER. THEY HAVE TO DIE. THEY ALL HAVE TO FUCKING DIE.

CRASH CRASH CRASH

THEY HAVE TO FUCKING DIE.

I WEAR THE BANDANA TO BE STRONG. HAVE TO BECOME THE MONSTER TO FIGHT THE MONSTER. THAT'S WHAT THEY TAUGHT ME. THAT'S WHAT *SHE* TAUGHT ME.

BUT I CAN'T... NOT LIKE THIS I CAN'T. I NEED TO BE STRONG. SHE WEARS THE BANDANA TO BE STRONG.

I'M A GOOD MONSTER.

THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO. THAT'S WHAT I'LL FUCKING DO.

I AM A SCARY SCARY MONSTER AND I'M GOING TO RIP HER SKIN FROM HER BONES AND I'M GOING TO EAT IT IN LITTLE LITTLE STRIPS UNTIL SHE'S NOTHING.

UNTIL SHE'S FUCKING NOTHING.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

TELL HER I WANT TO KNOW WHY I HAVE TO GET IN THE WATER.

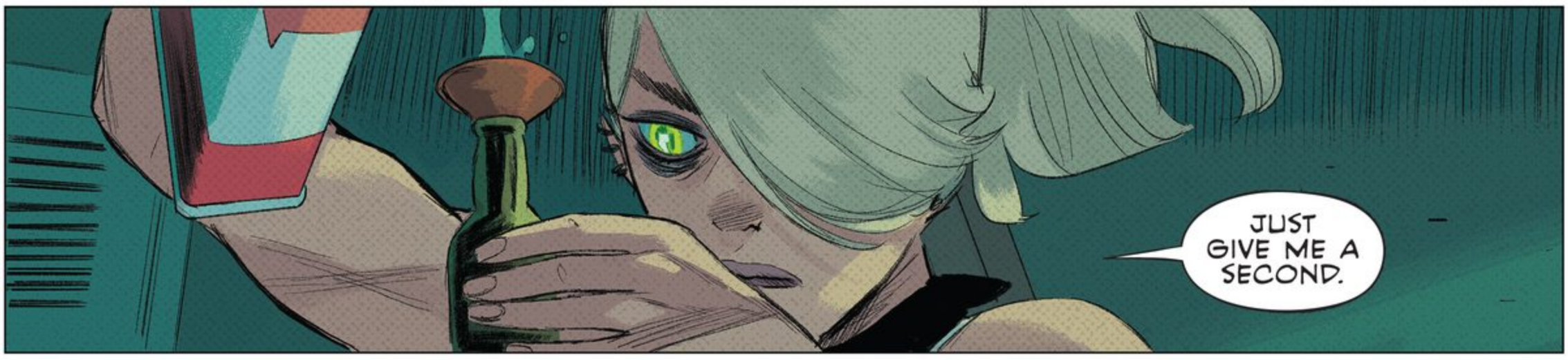
SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHY SHE HAS TO GET IN THE WATER.

BECAUSE I SAY SO.

THAT'S A BAD REASON.

SHE SAYS...

YEAH, I HEARD HER. YOU HAD YOUR FINGER ON THE BUTTON.


JUST GIVE ME A SECOND.

GABI, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YEAH.

DUPLICITYPES LIKE THEIR BLOOD WARM. WARMER THAN BODY TEMPERATURE. WE WANT IT TO PICK UP YOUR SCENT SO WE CAN LEAD IT WHERE WE WANT IT.

OKAY, FINE.

DON'T LOOK AT ME, PERV.

I'M NOT LOOKING AT YOU, GABI.

YEAH. FINE.

RIQUI... CAN YOU DO THIS NEXT BIT? I HAVE A LOT TO DO.

I THINK SO.

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY. AND IT ***CAN'T*** BE. YOU HAVE TO GET HER VULNERABLE. YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE SHE'S AFRAID.

YEAH.

AND THEN THE BLOOD. AND THEN YOU HAVE TO DO IT FIVE MORE TIMES.

I KNOW. I CAN DO THIS.

I'M GOING TO KEEP GETTING READY. LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE AT SITE B.

YEAH.

I *HATE* HOT SPRINGS.

HOW CAN YOU HATE HOT SPRINGS? YOU GREW UP AT A HOT SPRING.

WE LIVE IN THE FUCKING DESERT, BUT HAVING THESE IN THE BACKYARD MADE THE WHOLE HOUSE THIS ***STICKY SMELLY SWAMP.***

AND IT'S WHERE...

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S WHERE THEY ALL DIED.

THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT, RIGHT? ME SEEING THEM ALL DIE.

ME SEEING THAT ***THING*** EAT MARTA.

YEAH, KID. I'M SORRY.

STEP BY STEP. PIECE BY PIECE. EVERYTHING YOU SAW, EVERYTHING YOU FELT.

I KNOW.

CAN YOU DO IT?

CAN YOU...

...CAN YOU COME IN HERE WITH ME? IS THAT ALLOWED?

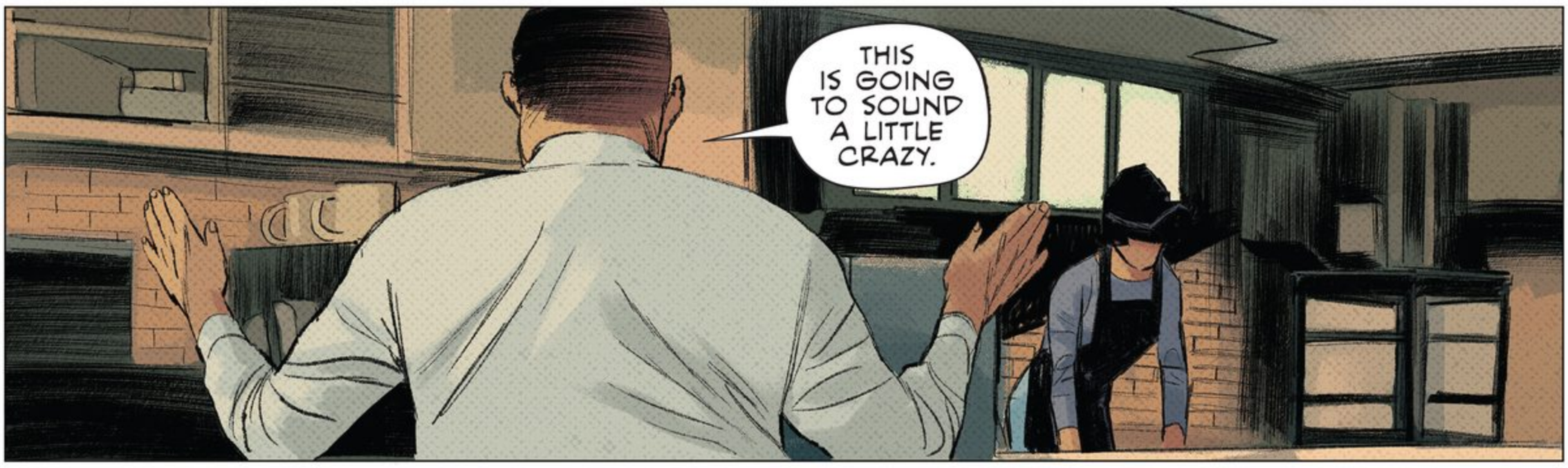
I CAN DO IT. BUT MAYBE...

...I DON'T KNOW. THIS IS STUPID, BUT IF YOU HUG ME...

YEAH. OKAY.

YOU'RE GETTING YOUR CLOTHES ALL WET!

WE LIVE IN THE DESERT. I'LL BE FINE.


THIS IS GOING TO SOUND A LITTLE CRAZY.

OKAY.

I NEED YOUR CELL PHONE. I JUST NEED IT TO MAKE A CALL.

YOU DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE?

LOOK. I KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW ME. BUT I JUST SAW A BUNCH OF MY FRIENDS DEAD.
IF YOU TURN ON THE NEWS YOU'LL SEE A STORY ABOUT IT.

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT, BILL? THAT'S SO FUCKED UP. YOU CAN'T JUST SAY THAT.

THIS ISN'T A JOKE. I NEED TO MAKE A PHONE CALL AND I CAN'T HAVE IT COME FROM MY PHONE.

WHY?

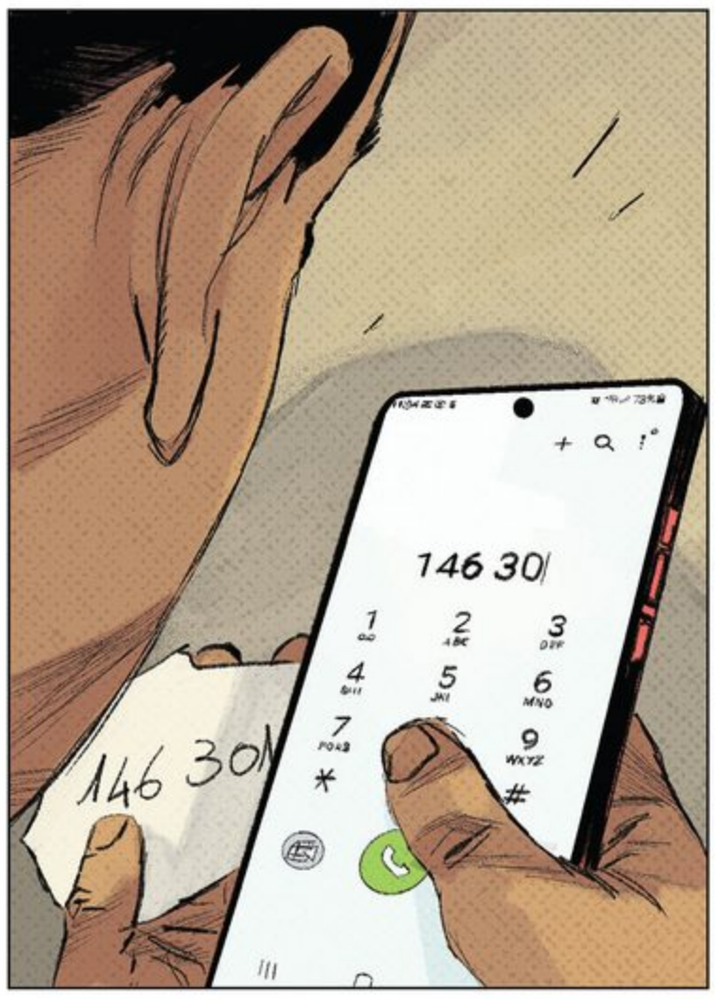
BECAUSE SOMETHING VERY WEIRD IS HAPPENING IN OUR LITTLE CITY. I'M SORRY. I CAN'T SAY MORE THAN THAT, BUT I PROMISE THIS IS REAL.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUST, LIKE...PUT YOUR NUMBER IN THERE OR SOMETHING? YOU'RE NICE, BUT...

I WON'T PUT MY NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE. I PROMISE.

OKAY.

I'M JUST GOING TO STEP OUT BACK FOR A MINUTE.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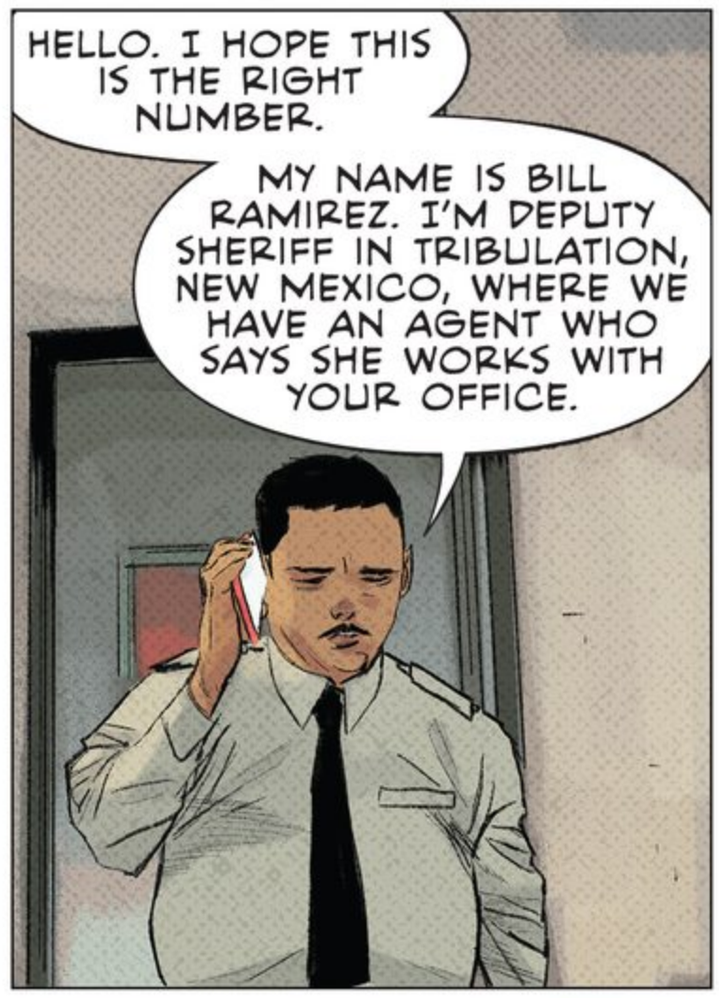
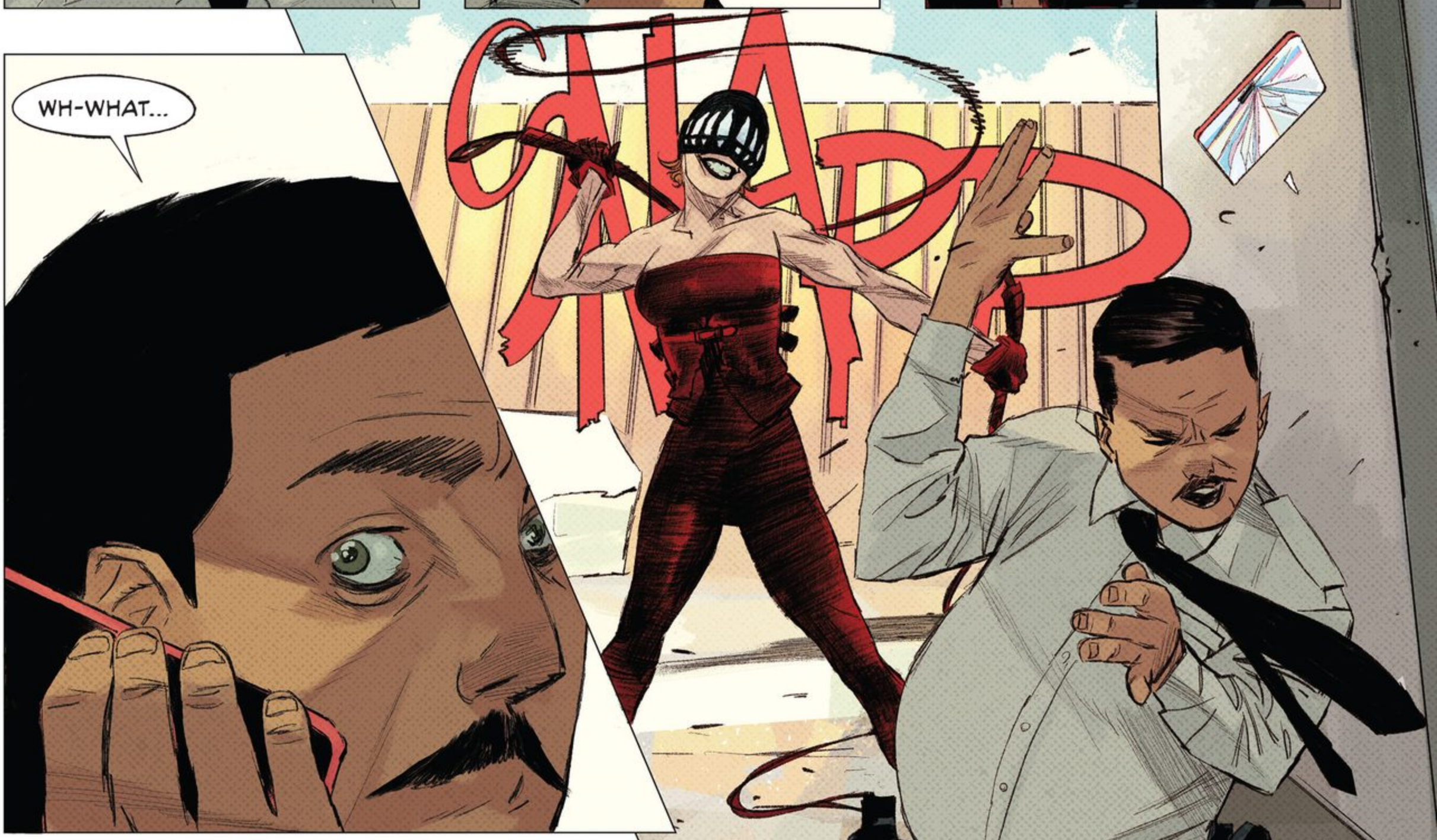

HELLO. I HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT NUMBER.
MY NAME IS BILL RAMIREZ. I'M DEPUTY SHERIFF IN TRIBULATION, NEW MEXICO, WHERE WE HAVE AN AGENT WHO SAYS SHE WORKS WITH YOUR OFFICE.

I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM THAT THERE IS A CHARLOTTE CUTTER WITH THE AMERICAN BRANCH OF INTERPOL.
CHARLOTTE CUTTER. YES.

YES, I CAN HOLD. THANK YOU.

OH, BILLY.
BILLY BILLY BILLY BOY.


WH-WHAT...
CLANG

SNAP

I KNEW I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME. I KNEW YOU WERE UP TO SOMETHING. YOU'VE BEEN A BAD BAD BILLY BOY.

THIS IS TOO SMART FOR YOU, ISN'T IT? YOUR PHONE WOULD HAVE GONE RIGHT TO THE ORDER. SHE KNEW THAT, AND NOW YOU KNOW THAT.

ERICA'S A CLEVER CLEVER GIRL.

YOU KILLED THEM ALL, DIDN'T YOU?

HEHEHEHEHE...

I'VE BEEN A BAD GIRL, HAVEN'T I?

WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU?

I'M YOUR END, BILLY BOY. I'M EVERYBODY'S END.

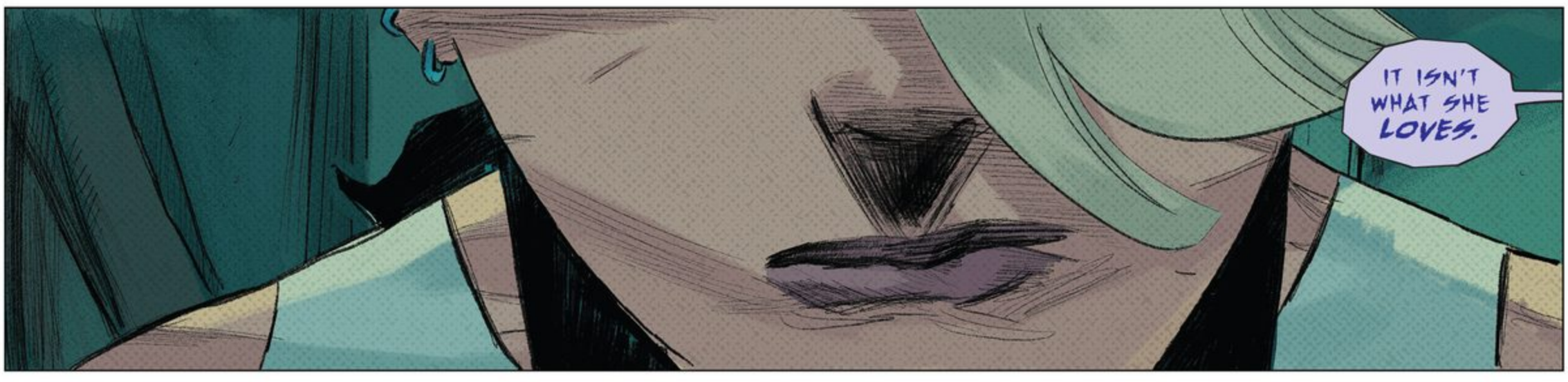
SHE'S ONLY GOING TO GET MORE DANGEROUS.

WHAT DID WE SAY ABOUT TALKING?

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT TALKING. YOU THINK YOU CAN THROW HER OFF BY TAKING ME AWAY FROM HER.
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY PEOPLE SHE'LL KILL NOW.

IS THAT SO?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW MANY SHE'S KILLED THIS YEAR ALONE?
NOT MONSTERS. SHE'S GOOD AT KILLING MONSTERS, BUT THAT'S NOT HER SPECIALTY. IT'S NEVER BEEN HER SPECIALTY.


IT ISN'T WHAT SHE LOVES.

I'M PUTTING YOU OUTSIDE. I NEED TO FOCUS.

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO ME.
WHY THE HELL SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU? I DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO MY TOTEM.

AND YOU'RE SURE THAT'S TO YOUR BENEFIT?

HELLO, ERICA.

TELL ME WHY I SHOULDN'T PULL THIS TRIGGER.

BECAUSE THEN YOU WON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU WON'T KNOW HOW TO KILL YOUR DUPLICITYPE.

I MADE A MISTAKE, ERICA.

YOU STARTED THIS, DIDN'T YOU? YOU BROUGHT THE CUTTER WOMAN IN...
...YOU AS GOOD AS KILLED BIG GARY.

JUST LIKE YOU KILLED JESSICA.

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU, EITHER.

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE PAST IF YOU WANT, ERICA. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"SHOWDOWN AT THE EASY CREEK CORRAL"
PART ONE

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JAMES TYNION IV

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WERTHER DELL'EDERA

COLORED BY
MIQUEL MUERTO

LETTERED BY
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVER BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

UNLOCKABLE VARIANT COVER BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA
WITH COLORS BY MIQUEL MUERTO

VARIANT COVERS BY
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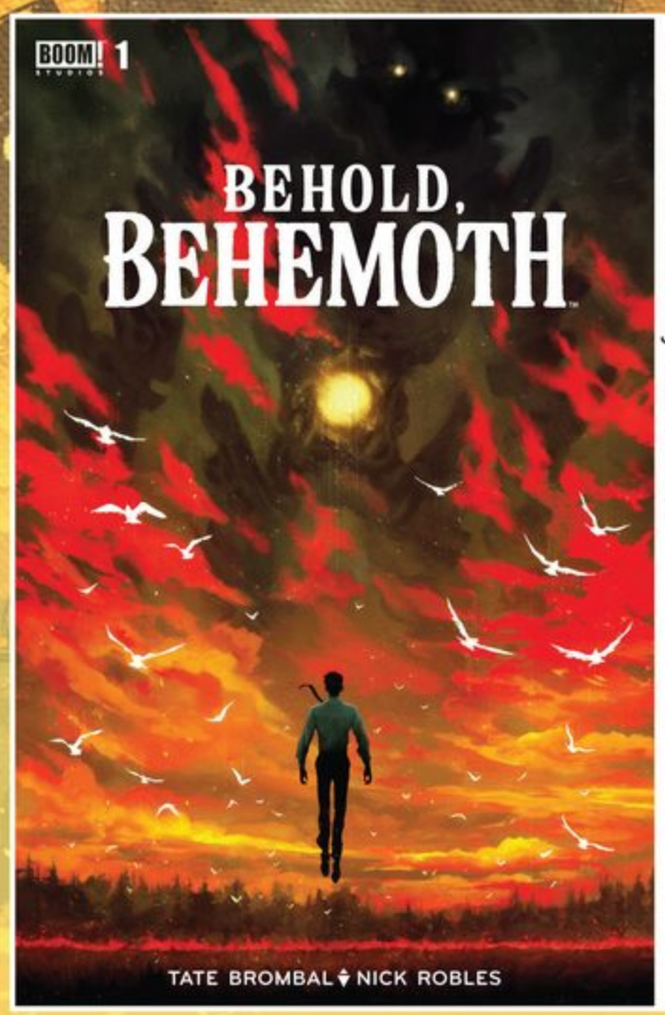

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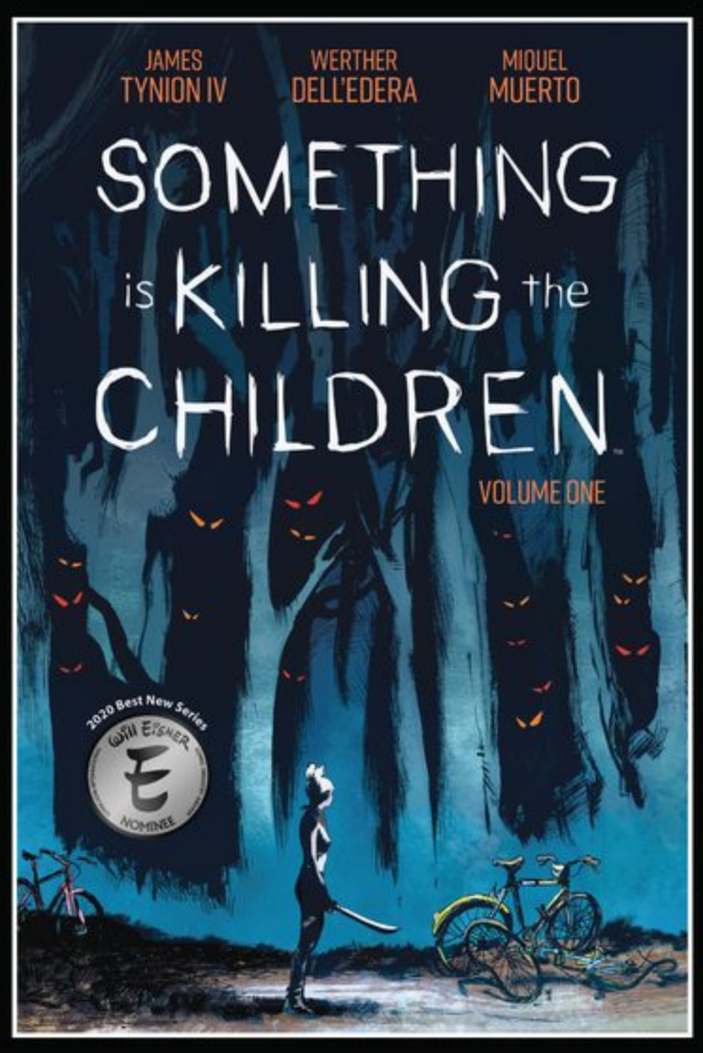
WRITTEN BY
JAMES TYNION IV
(THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH, THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE)

ILLUSTRATED BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA
(RAZORBLADES)

WITH COLORIST
MIQUEL MUERTO
(HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER)

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

FOLLOW THE BLOODY TRAIL OF ERICA SLAUGHTER & EXPLORE ARCHER'S PEAK WHEN YOU PICK UP THESE COLLECTIONS!



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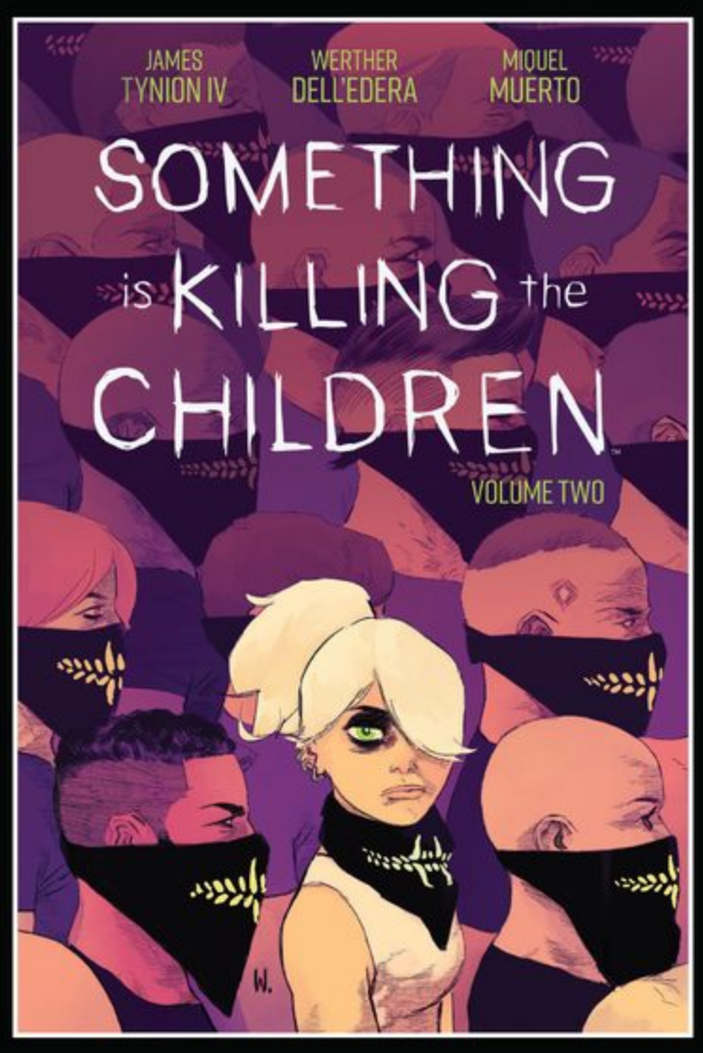

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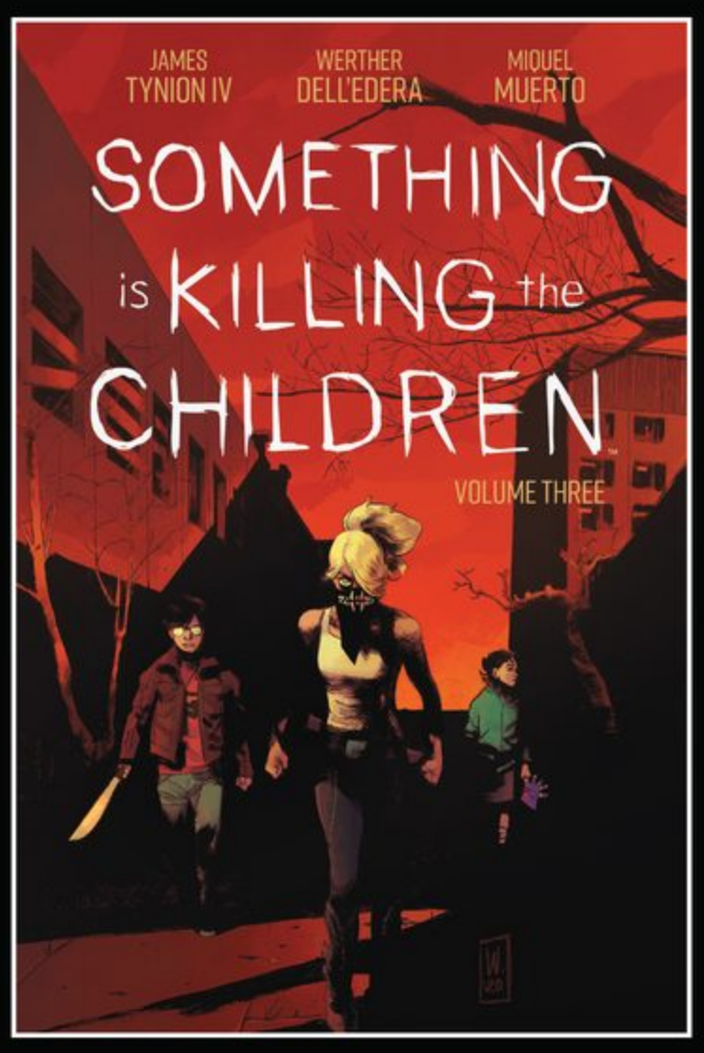

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KEEP AN EYE ON...

THE NEIGHBORS™

WRITER
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(MAW)

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(HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER)

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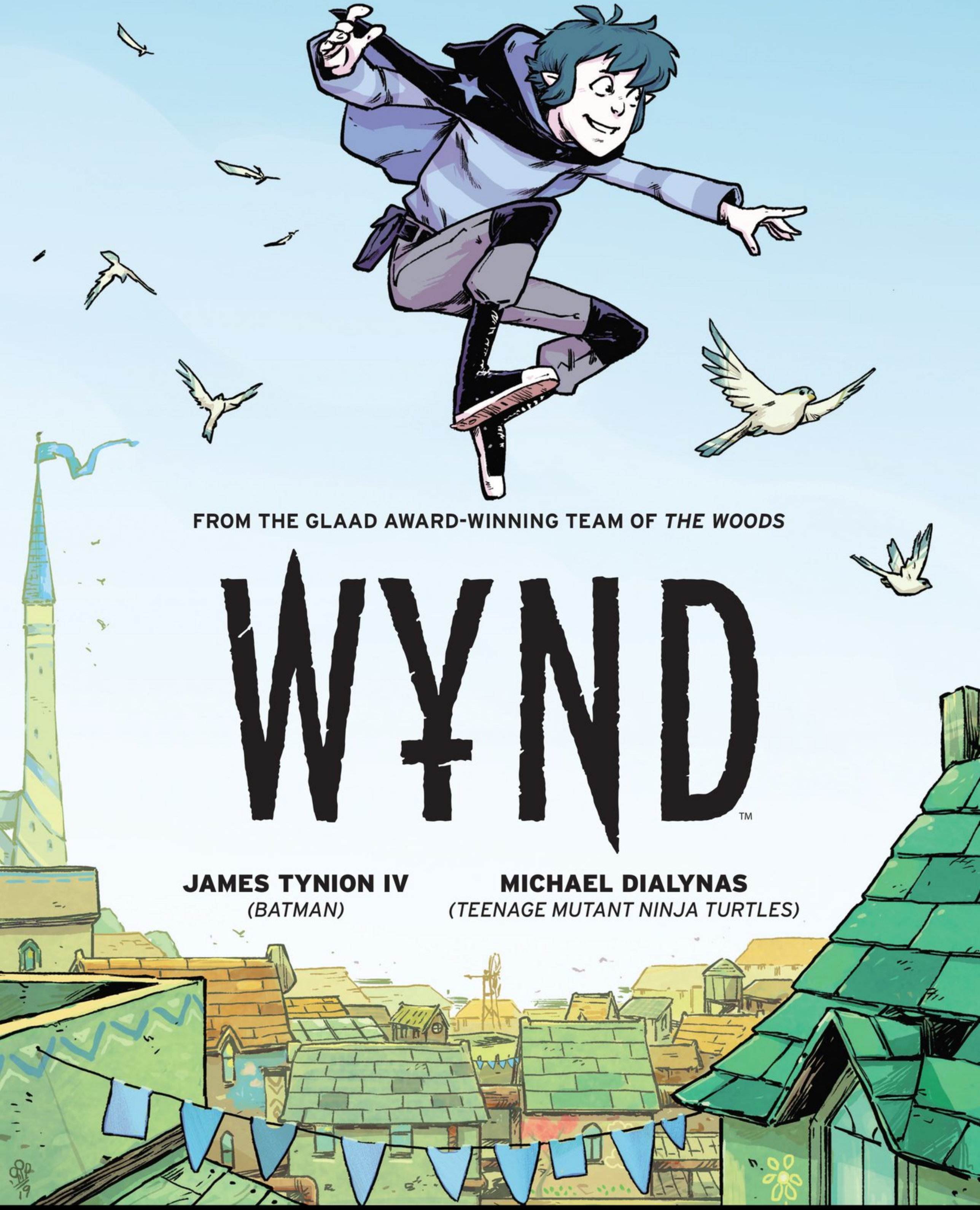
YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR HOME UNTIL YOU FIND YOURSELF



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WYND™

JAMES TYNION IV
(BATMAN)

MICHAEL DIALYNAS
(TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES)

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JAMES TYNION IV WERTHER DELL'EDERA MIQUEL MUERTO

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

BOOM! STUDIOS

№ 31

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"